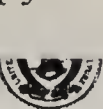


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SSA



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of  
Public Affairs

# Selected Speeches and News Releases

January 25 - February 1, 1990

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

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## FmHA HOUSING MONEY TARGETED TO COUNTIES THAT NEED IT THE MOST

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26—Federal rural housing funds are being targeted to 100 counties that need it the most, according to Neal Sox Johnson, acting administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration.

"We have identified 100 counties in 38 states and Puerto Rico that are under-served by FmHA housing programs. We are starting a demonstration program to target an additional \$67 million to those counties," he said. "The counties involved are still fully eligible for the regular allocation of housing funds their states receive."

The initiative to provide more housing to the under-served counties includes FmHA's single family home ownership and repair program and the rural rental housing program.

The largest part of the funding—\$40 million—is earmarked for the agency's single family home ownership program. At least 40 percent of these funds will be reserved for very low income families. An additional \$25 million is available for the construction of apartment buildings. The single family housing repair program will provide \$1 million in loans and \$1 million in grants. The grants are available only to residents 62 years or older who cannot afford to repay a loan.

FmHA funnels billions of dollars annually in housing funds into America's small towns and rural areas.

"We have financed more than a million single family houses in rural America in the past 40 years," Johnson said. "We've been financing rental units since 1962 and we've financed more than 400,000 apartments."

"Our efforts to provide safe, decent, and adequate housing for rural residents have been successful, and yet, some areas are still desperately in need of housing assistance," Johnson said.

Applicants for assistance under the demonstration program must meet all the eligibility requirements for FmHA's housing programs. Information on applying for housing assistance from FmHA can be obtained from any FmHA office. Applications for single family home



ownership and housing repair programs are processed at FmHA county offices. Applications for rental housing are processed at FmHA district offices. Locations of these offices can usually be found in the local telephone directory.

FmHA provides a full range of credit services in rural America, including Farm loans, housing loans, community facilities loans and guarantees for business and industry loans.

The following states and counties are targeted to receive special FmHA housing assistance:

ALASKA (north, southeast, and south central sections)  
ALABAMA—Conecuh, Dallas, Perry, Russell, Sumter  
ARKANSAS—Chicot, Lee, Monroe, Newton, Searcy  
ARIZONA—Apache, Coconino, Navajo  
COLORADO—Costilla  
FLORIDA—Madison  
GEORGIA—Clay, Hancock, Marion, Stewart, Taliaferro  
HAWAII—Hawaii  
INDIANA—Crawford  
KANSAS—Elk  
KENTUCKY—Lawrence, Leslie, Lincoln, Owen, Robertson.  
LOUISIANA—Evangeline, Madison, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St.  
Landry  
MASSACHUSETTS—Dukes  
MICHIGAN—Lake  
MINNESOTA—Aitkin  
MISSOURI—Bollinger  
MISSISSIPPI—Humphreys, Jefferson, Leflore, Noxubee, Yazoo  
MONTANA—Prairie  
NORTH CAROLINA—Bertie, Gates, Madison, Northampton,  
Warren  
NORTH DAKOTA—Rolette, Sioux  
NEBRASKA—Pawnee.  
NEW MEXICO—McKinley, Rio Arriba, San Juan, Torrance  
NEVADA—Eureka  
NEW YORK—Sullivan  
OHIO—Vinton  
OKLAHOMA—Adair  
OREGON—Wheeler

PUERTO RICO—Caquas, Guayama, Juana Diaz, San Lorenzo,  
Utuado  
SOUTH CAROLINA—Dillon, Jasper  
SOUTH DAKOTA—Buffalo, Dewey, Shannon, Todd, Ziebach  
TENNESSEE—Claiborne, Hancock, Johnson, Lake, Scott  
TEXAS—Colorado, Frio, Maverick, Presidio, Zavala  
UTAH—San Juan  
VIRGINIA—Charlotte, Lee, Nelson, Northampton, Rappahannock  
VERMONT—Orange  
WASHINGTON—Pend Oreille  
WISCONSIN—Menominee  
WEST VIRGINIA—Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Summers, Webster  
WYOMING—Niobrara

Joe O'Neill (202) 447-4323

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## **USDA REVISES COUNTRY, COMMODITY PUBLIC LAW 480 ALLOCATIONS FOR FISCAL 1990**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today issued revised country and commodity allocations for fiscal year 1990 under Titles I/III of Public Law 480, the Food for Peace Program.

Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard Crowder said current program plans provide for distribution of \$806.0 million in commodity shipments, changed from \$776.0 million the previous quarter. Of the current amount, \$677.9 million is presently allocated and \$128.1 is being held in a reserve to furnish commodities for unforeseen needs during the remainder of the fiscal year.

Crowder also said that Poland is now a participant in the Titles I/III program with a \$20 million allocation to provide financing for rice, vegetable oil and cotton.

The revised allocations meet the legal requirement of Section 111 of P.L. 480, which directs that not less than 75 percent of the food commodities be allocated to friendly countries that meet the per capita income criterion for lending by the International Development Association. Currently the countries in this category are those with an annual per capita gross national product of \$1,070 or less.

Crowder said the program takes into account many variables including commodity and budget availabilities; changing economic and foreign policy situations, including human rights assessments; potential for market development; fluctuations in commodity prices; availability of handling, storage and distribution facilities; and possible disincentives to local production.

Since situations may develop which could cause a change in country and commodity allocations during the fiscal year, the announced allocations do not represent final U.S. commitments nor agreements with participating governments.

Title I of P.L. 480 is a concessional sales program designed to promote exports of agricultural commodities from the United States and to foster economic development in recipient countries. The program provides export credit of up to 40 years, with a grace period of up to 10 years and low interest rates.

Title III provides for the forgiveness of the debt incurred under Title I, based on accomplishments in food for development programs and projects agreed upon by the United States and recipient countries.

Additional technical information on the P.L. 480 program is available from Mary Chambliss of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, (202) 447-3573.

For a complete list of allocations, contact the FAS Office of Public Affairs, (202) 447-3448.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

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## **USDA SEEKS COMMENT ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO EGG PROMOTION ORDER**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing an amendment to the national egg research and promotion order that would exempt more small-scale egg producers from assessment.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the proposed amendment would exempt producers owning 30,000 or fewer laying hens. The current exemption is 3,000 or fewer laying hens.



The proposal would implement a recent Congressional amendment to the 1974 Egg Research and Consumer Information Act.

Haley said that USDA's proposal, if adopted, would have little effect on operations of the American Egg Board, which conducts research and promotion programs authorized under an order that carries out the act. Although about 36 percent of egg producers would be affected by the proposal, their assessments represent only four percent of the assessments collected to support work of the board.

A section of USDA's proposal would define the legal identity of the exempted parties, Haley said. Also authorized by the recent Congressional amendment of the act, this section would remove ambiguities about what kind of entities fall under the exemption. Definitions would include partnerships, beneficial interests in corporations, and beneficiaries of trusts.

Details of the proposal will appear as a proposed rule in today's Federal Register. Comments, to be received no later than Feb. 9, should be sent to Janice L. Lockard, Chief, Standardization Branch, Poultry Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 3944-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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## **USDA REVISES GRADING STANDARDS FOR CANNED PINEAPPLE**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is revising its grading standards for canned pineapple, effective March 1, to simplify grade designations by reducing double names such as "USDA Grade A" or "U.S. Fancy" to the letter designation, "USDA Grade A."

The revisions will also:

- add new designations such as "whole," "extra light sirup," and "artificially sweetened";

- eliminate count and size designations for slices and half-slices, and eliminate certain other designations such as "small tidbits," "large tidbits," and "symmetrical chunks"; and

- align Food and Drug Administration and USDA methods for measuring drained weight of crushed fruit.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said, "Changes in consumer demand and improved packing technology over three decades of using the standards since they were issued in 1957 are reasons for these revisions." An initiative from the Pineapple Growers Association of Hawaii, which represents most of the canned pineapple industry, prompted USDA to consider revising the standards, he said.

USDA canned pineapple grading is employed chiefly by the food service industry voluntarily on a fee-for-service basis.

The revisions will be published as a final rule in today's Federal Register. For copies and more information, contact D. Todd Dulaney, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Processed Products Branch, AMS, USDA, Rm. 0709-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 447-6247.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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## **FGIS REPORT INDICATES SLIGHT DECLINE IN QUALITY OF 1989 WHEAT CROP**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30—The quality of the 1989 domestic wheat crop declined slightly from that of the 1988 crop, according to a report released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service.

The report shows that, of the graded samples, 56 percent in the 1989 study were assigned the U.S. No. 1 grade, versus 64 percent in 1988.

The wheat quality report is based on FGIS' annual summary of randomly selected samples of all official inspections performed on new-crop wheat samples during the first four weeks following the start of local harvests throughout the country. The average quality of these selected samples is indicative of the quality of all five classes of wheat inspected during the period. This is the fourth year that FGIS has surveyed the domestic wheat crop.

The report released today summarizing results for the 1989 crop are based on 13,363 wheat samples; 1,684 Durum, 2,444 Hard Red Spring, 4,163 Hard Red Winter, 1,977 Soft Red Winter, 3,042 White, and 53 Mixed.



Specific findings of the report by wheat classification include the following:

—The quality of officially inspected Soft Red Winter wheat was not as good as 1988 with only 27.4 percent of the graded samples receiving one of the top two grades, a drop from the 75.9 percent assigned one of these grades in 1988. Lower test weight measurements was the primary grading deficiency.

—Nationwide there was little change in the percentage of graded Hard Red Winter samples assigned the top grade, 61.5 percent last year; 61.4 percent this year graded U.S. No. 1.

—The U.S. No. 1 grade was assigned to 10 percent more randomly selected samples of officially inspected Hard Red Spring wheat in 1989 than in 1988.

—U.S. No. 1 grade was assigned to 71.2 percent of the Durum wheat samples graded in 1989, a decrease from 1988's 82.7 percent.

—Sixteen percent fewer White wheat samples were assigned the top grade in 1989 compared to 1988.

For a copy of the report, including average results per factor for all grades and classes of wheat, and the comparable averages in the 1988 study, plus a detailed summary of the new crop wheat inspections with averages by grade and state, contact Allen A. Atwood, USDA, FGIS, P.O. Box 96454, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454; FAX (202) 447-4628.

Allen Atwood (202) 475-3367

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## **GREAT PLAINS WIND EROSION DAMAGE DOWN FROM LAST YEAR**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30—Wind erosion damage on U.S. cropland and rangeland in the Great Plains in November and December 1989 is down from near record-breaking highs in 1988, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service.

Wind erosion damaged 1.7 million acres of cropland and rangeland in November and December in 541 counties in the Great Plains—nearly 20 percent less than the same period a year ago but nearly 60 percent above the 1970-1990 average. The wind erosion season extends from November through May.

“Drought and limited snow cover are the major reasons for the

damage,” said Wilson Scaling, chief of the Soil Conservation Service. “We’ve had several years of drought with resulting lack of residue and poor vegetative cover.”

Texas had the greatest damage, accounting for a third of the total. North Dakota set a state record with nearly 553,000 acres damaged.

Of the total land damaged, nearly 94 percent was cropland, with the rest primarily rangeland.

Where there was enough moisture, farmers in every state except Montana were using emergency tillage—roughening the surface—to prevent land damage. More than 535,000 acres received emergency tillage, compared with 419,000 acres reported at this time last year. Texas reported 358,000 acres, about two-thirds of the total.

In addition, 17 million acres were reported in condition to blow. This was nearly 1.7 million acres less than last year but still the fourth highest on record. North Dakota had a record 4.2 million acres and Texas had 3.4 million acres.

Following is a state-by-state summary of wind erosion damage between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31, 1989, compared to damage during the same period the previous year:

**Wind Erosion Damage, November-December 1989 and 1988**

	Counties Reporting	Acres Damaged (Nov.-Dec. 1989) (Nov.-Dec. 1988)	
Colorado	37	65,041	28,795
Kansas	105	105,770	135,550
Montana	40	214,465	510,875
Nebraska	21	30,575	54,405
New Mexico	19	28,650	51,100
North Dakota	53	552,952	188,200
Oklahoma	30	57,540	68,480
South Dakota	66	54,680	112,250
Texas	147	576,320	664,128
Wyoming	23	54,595	346,754
TOTALS	541	1,740,588	2,160,537

Diana Morse (202) 447-4772

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 9.76 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 9.02 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 8.91 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.88 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$6.03 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$5.62 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$5.42 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Feb. 6, at 3 p.m. EST, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

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## **PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR UNKNOWN**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 100,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to unknown destinations during the 1989-90 marketing year.

The marketing year for corn began Sept. 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM, eastern time on the next business day following the sale.

Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas McDonald (202) 447-3273

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## USDA RELEASES PRELIMINARY QUALITY DATA ON 1989 CORN CROP

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service today released a preliminary report showing that the 1989 corn crop contained less U.S. No. 1 grade samples than in the previous year.

The report is based on FGIS' annual summary of randomly selected samples of all official inspections performed on new-crop corn during the first four weeks following the start of local harvest throughout the country. The average quality of these selected samples is indicative of the quality of the U.S. corn crop inspected during the period. The preliminary report summarizes results for 2,434 officially inspected samples of the 1989 corn crop.

Specific findings of the report include the following:

—The top grade was assigned to 5 percent fewer samples than in the study of the 1988 corn crop.

—The test weight average decreased and the moisture average increased from the values reported in the 1988 corn study.

—Both the total damaged kernels, and broken corn and foreign material averages, were lower than last year, although the changes were small.

David Galliard, acting FGIS administrator, said the preliminary reports are an advance version of final material that will appear in the FGIS 1989 New Crop Corn Report, scheduled for publication this spring. Advance reports are furnished to assist those who need the information on a more timely basis, Galliard said.

For a copy of the preliminary reports, and/or the final 1989 New Crop Corn Quality Report when it becomes available, contact Allen Atwood, FGIS, RMD, Room 0632-S, P.O. Box 96454, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454; telecopier (202) 447-4628.

Allen Atwood (202) 475-3367

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES REVISED 1990 RICE ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced that the percentage reduction under the acreage reduction program (ARP) for the 1990 rice program is being reduced to 20 percent. A 22.5 percent reduction was announced Jan. 3.

Yeutter said this action is being taken after reviewing recent projected supply and demand estimates for the 1989 rice crop. The report shows ending stocks at 19 million hundredweight, the lowest level since the 1980 crop.

The Agricultural Act of 1949 requires the secretary of agriculture to carry out an acreage reduction program that will result in a carryover of stocks as close as possible to 30 million hundredweight. The lower ARP percentage announced today is expected to better achieve this level than would the 22.5 percent announced earlier.

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789

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## **NEW WHITE SWEET POTATO IS ALTERNATIVE TO IRISH POTATOES**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—A sweet potato with white meat instead of orange and a flavor like an Irish-type potato has been developed by a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist.

“I made potato salad out of the new variety for a family reunion and no one suspected that it was made with sweet potatoes,” said USDA’s Philip D. Dukes. He said the variety, named Sumor, also whips into “perfect” mashed potatoes.

Sweet potatoes in this country are primarily a southern crop and the new variety would do well from Maryland south-anywhere there are long warm days, he said. The variety was called Sumor, Old English for summer, because it has the sweet potato’s tolerance for heat.

Sumor would make a good substitute crop in countries where the climate is too hot to grow Irish potatoes, said Dukes, who is with USDA’s Agricultural Research Service. He said the variety also could be a beneficial crop, on its own, for many parts of Africa and other warm climate areas. “We’ve shipped some to Pago Pago and Guam already,”



he said. He developed the variety at the research agency's U.S. Vegetable Laboratory in Charleston, S.C.

Dukes said that when they first form underground, Sumor sweet potatoes do start out yellowish orange. But as they near harvest, the color changes from yellow to tan to cream and finally fades to white by the time the sweet potatoes are mature.

While Sumors have only a fraction of the vitamin A found in typical orange sweet potatoes, they have more vitamin C than do most tomatoes. "That makes Sumor qualify as a high-nutrition crop," Dukes said.

Sumor sweet potatoes are commercially available from Foundation Seed Inc., at Clemson University, Clemson, S.C.

Kim Kaplan (301) 344-3932

#

**THIS WEEK'S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS  
UNCHANGED**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—Producers may repay their 1989 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation:

**Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per  
pound**

	1989-crop	1988-crop
Table		
White . . . . .	40.0 . . . . .	40.0
Extra-light Amber . . . . .	37.0 . . . . .	37.0
Light Amber . . . . .	36.0 . . . . .	36.0
Amber . . . . .	35.0 . . . . .	34.0
Nontable . . . . .	33.0 . . . . .	33.0



The levels are unchanged from those announced April 20, 1989.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their 1989 honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7601 8:00 am-4:30 pm EST

John C. Ryan (202) 447-8207 4:30 pm-5:30 pm EST

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON**

Washington, Feb. 1—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Feb. 2, through midnight Thursday, Feb 8.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1988 and 1989 crop base quality loan rates of 51.80 and 50.00 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1988 and 1989 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1989-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

Based on data for the week ending Feb. 1, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price	
Northern Europe Price .....	74.35
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location .....	12.84
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton .....	2.20
Average U.S. location .....	0.39
Sum of Adjustments .....	<u>-15.43</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE .....	58.92 cents/lb.
Coarse Count Adjustment	
Northern Europe Price .....	74.35
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price .....	<u>-70.22</u>
	4.13
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton .....	<u>-4.75</u>
	-0.62
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT .....	0 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday, Feb 8.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

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## ACKER NAMED OICD ADMINISTRATOR

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced the appointment of Dr. Duane Acker as administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Office for International Cooperation and Development.

As OICD’s administrator, Acker will coordinate USDA’s international training and technical assistance programs and oversee research projects and scientific exchanges with other nations on topics of interest to U.S. farmers and agribusiness.

Acker has been the assistant to the administrator for Food and Agriculture at the U.S. Agency for International Development. During his tenure with AID, he concurrently served as a distinguished professor at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

“With his experience from the State Department and his extensive academic training in agriculture, Dr. Acker is uniquely qualified to direct the programs of OICD,” Yeutter said.

Prior to his government service, Acker was president of Kansas State University from 1975-86. He also was dean of agriculture and director of the agricultural experiment station at South Dakota State University, Brookings, from 1966-74.

Acker received his doctorate in animal nutrition from Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, in 1957. He received bachelor’s and master’s of science degrees from Iowa State University in 1952 and 1953. He is originally from Atlantic, Iowa where he still maintains a farming operation. He is a member of numerous professional and honorary organizations. His extensive publications include the section on agriculture in the 1989 edition of “The World Book Encyclopedia.”

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES 1990-CROP BURLEY TOBACCO PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced a national marketing quota for the 1990 crop of burley tobacco of 602.3 million pounds, up from the 1989 quota of 587.6 million pounds.

Yeutter also announced the following provisions:

—The price support for the 1990 crop is \$1.558 per pound, up 2.6 cents from the 1989 level.

—For each farm, the 1990 basic quota level will increase about 2.5 percent from last year.

—The effective quota is expected to be about 743 million pounds, 82 million pounds above the 1989 effective quota.

—Crop year 1990 loans to producer associations will be subject to a reduction of 1.4 percent under the deficit reduction sequester order.

—The no-net-cost program assessment will be announced later.

Burley tobacco is grown in Kentucky, Tennessee, and surrounding states.

In a February 1989 referendum, producers approved poundage quotas for the 1989 through 1991 crops.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-6787

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